

PRESS RELEASE CLASSIS NORTHERN ONTARIO SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

On Friday September 24th delegates from the eight churches in Classis Northern Ontario gathered together in Orangeville for the second Classis of 2010. Since none of the churches in Classis are presently vacant the delegates consisted of eight elders and eight ministers. Rev. Kampen opened the meeting by requesting all present to join in the singing of Hymn 57:1,2. After reading Psalm 65 he led in prayer. Examination of the credentials confirmed that all the churches were properly represented. It was noted that the congregation at Orangeville recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

According to the regulations of Classis there are a number of reports that need to be submitted to the September Classis. Church visitation reports were received on visits made to seven of the eight churches (Brampton, Elora, Fergus Maranatha, Fergus North, Guelph, Orangeville, Owen Sound). Each report concluded that all things (in the church visited) are being regulated in harmony with the Word of God, the officebearers fulfil the duties of their office faithfully and the adopted church order is being maintained in every respect. Thankfulness was expressed to the Lord in prayer.

Other reports submitted to Classis included a report on the inspection of the Classical archives, a report from the Classical Treasurer, from the Church for Financial Aid to Students for the Ministry, the Committee for Needy churches and several financial audits. These reports were received with gratitude. It was noted with thankfulness that the Lord continues to provide for the financial needs of all the churches in our classical region.

Question period according to Article 44 of the Church Order was held. None of the churches requested the help or judgment of Classis for the proper government of their congregation.

Classis dealt with a proposal from Fergus Maranatha suggesting a change to Article 38 of the Church Order. They proposed removing the words "As a rule the ministers of the Word shall preside. If a church is served by more than one minister, they shall preside in turn." Classis requested Fergus Maranatha to reconsider the proposal taking into account the discussion at Classis.

The church at Fergus North requested a change in one of the articles of the Regulations of Classis. This pertained to voting procedures. This request was denied.

Classis received a letter from the church at Grassie asking Classis to cooperate in the implementation of the newly established General Fund for the Financial Assistance of Students of Theology (See Acts of Synod 2010 for the decision made by Synod Burlington Ebenezer). They requested Classis forward any existing funds to the newly appointed committee so that all funds be pooled together in one general fund. Classis agreed to give full cooperation and decided to pass on this request to the church of Guelph who to this point had taken care of the Classical Fund.

The church at Owen Sound was appointed as convening church for the next Classis. The next Classis is scheduled to be convened, the Lord willing, December 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Classis suggested J. Moesker serve as chairman, W. Geurts as vice-chairman and E. Kampen as clerk. Classis made the regular September appointments. These appointments are recorded in the Acts of this Classis. The following ministers were appointed as delegates to Regional Synod East November 10, 2010: E. Kampen and J. Moesker. The alternates: C. Vandervelde and M. VanLuik (in that order).

G. Nordeman and H. Kottelenberg were appointed as elder delegates. The alternates: J. Schoon and P. VanGrootheest (in that order)

Classis moved quickly through the final items of the agenda. Classis received a letter of greeting from the ERQ. Question period was held and there was no need to exercise censure according to Article 34 of the Church Order. The chairman requested the singing of Psalm 147:1,5 and Rev. Feenstra closed in prayer.